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Frederick County
Executive

HB 627

**Motor Fuel Tax Refund – Demand
Response Trips**

County Position: SUPPORT

Date: February 23, 2017
Committee: Ways and Means

As the Frederick County Executive I wish to provide my **SUPPORT** for House Bill 627, “Motor Fuel Tax Refund – Demand Response Trips”. I request a favorable committee report.

Local government transit systems in the State are eligible to receive a Motor Fuel Tax Rebate for fuel purchased for fixed route service. Paratransit service is not eligible for this rebate. HB627 would permit transit systems that provide paratransit service to receive this rebate for fuel purchased for paratransit service.

Paratransit transit service is for seniors and people with disabilities, and is primarily used to transport people to medical appointments, including dialysis. The population of seniors is growing exponentially increasing the demand for paratransit services. A fuel tax rebate is a small, but critical, step in providing more funding for this essential service.

This proposed legislation will provide needed funding for a program that has been flat for 15 years, and for which there is no Federal funding. Local governments have been funding the majority of paratransit services. A rebate on fuel tax paid would help to offset some of the operating expenses for this critically needed service.

I respectfully request a favorable committee report on **HB 627**.